



Regional  
Development  
(Québec)

Développement  
régional  
(Québec)

CAI  
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# The Resource Regions of Québec



Industry, Science and  
Technology Canada

Industrie, Sciences et  
Technologie Canada

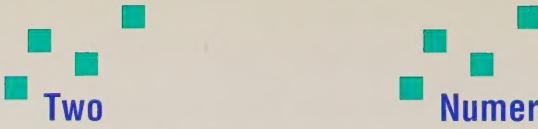
Canada





## Regional Development (Québec)

- Regional Development (Québec) is the administrative unit within Industry, Science and Technology Canada (ISTC), responsible for regional development in Québec.
- Regional Development (Québec) is pursuing the efforts of the former Department of Regional Industrial Expansion (DRIE) by establishing measures tailored to the particular needs of each region.
- Born of the desire of the federal government to contribute to the development of the regions of Québec, Regional Development (Québec) negotiates and signs economic development agreements with the Government of Québec.
- Regional Development (Québec) defines federal regional development objectives in Québec and pays particular attention to the interests of Québec in matters of federal government procurement.
- Regional Development (Québec) regularly consults the various socio-economic stakeholders in the regions and works jointly with federal and provincial economic development departments.
- Regional Development (Québec) delivers numerous financial assistance programs to foster regional development through its Montréal office and its eight regional offices. It also offers access to ISTC's many other scientific, technological and industrial services.



## Two development axes

Wanting to intervene wisely and effectively in developing the resources and natural vocation of each region, Regional Development (Québec) defines Québec as comprising two distinct economic zones:

- The central regions: this is Québec's industrial heartland, in the southwest of the province, with metropolitan Montréal at its hub.
- The resource regions: this is the hinterland of Québec, five regions extending from the east to the northwest and whose economy is largely resource-based.

### In the resource regions

The more specific objectives of Regional Development (Québec) in these regions are:

- to foster a climate of entrepreneurship and to develop businesses;
- to develop natural resources;
- to strengthen economic infrastructures;
- to encourage research and technological development;
- to promote training of human resources.

To achieve these objectives, one of the steps taken by Regional Development (Québec) was to sign an agreement, in June 1988, "on the Economic Development of the Regions of Québec". This 820 million dollar agreement provides a framework within which the federal and provincial governments can implement joint programs, and is therefore a key instrument in Regional Development (Québec)'s pursuit of its mandate.

## Numerous financial assistance programs

Some of the main financial assistance programs, managed or coordinated by Regional Development (Québec) are:

- The Enterprise Development Program (EDP), the first to be put forward following the ratification of the Canada-Québec Agreement for the resource regions. This program is divided into two components, Industry (EDP-I) and Tourism (EDP-T).
- Québec Fisheries Development Program
- Innovation Assistance Program
- Agriculture Testing Networks Program (Agriculture Canada)
- Agricultural Apprenticeship Program (Agriculture Canada)
- Agri-Food Testing and Experimentation Program (Agriculture Canada)
- Fisheries and Aquaculture Testing and Experimentation Program (Fisheries and Oceans Canada)
- Salmon Economic Development Program
- Assistance Program for Industrial Infrastructure
- Assistance for Tourist Attraction and Infrastructure Projects
- Assistance for Major Regional Facilities





## The resource regions: their features and their future

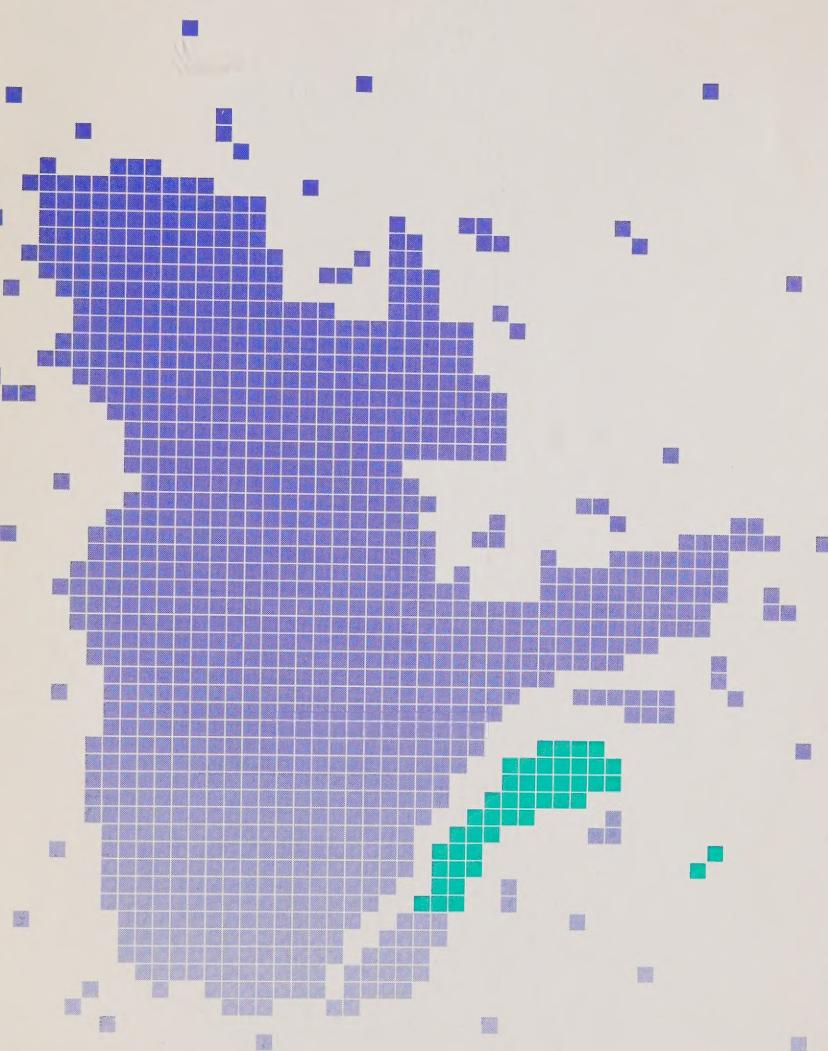
Eastern Québec, the North Shore, the North-Centre, Northern Québec and Western Québec form an immense area covering over 90% of the province, but have a population of under one million inhabitants, or roughly 16% of the Québec total.

Forests, mineral resources, hydro-electricity, agriculture and tourism, and in some areas, aquaculture, form the economic base of these regions. Their economic structure is based mainly on the primary sector, which provides between 7% and 19% of employment, compared with 4.4% in Québec as a whole. Primary activity and manufacturing are thus geared to the extraction and primary processing of resources, which are then exported to international markets.

Let us look now at each of the five resource regions, their respective geography, industrial profiles, tourist attractions and development prospects.

# Eastern Québec

Eastern  
Québec



**Rimouski:** 212, Belzile street, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor  
Rimouski (Québec) G5L 3C3  
(418) 722-3282 1-800-463-9073



## A few figures

Labour force in  
1988

.....135 000 (1)

Unemployment rate

in 1986.....19%(2)

in 1988.....13%(1)

Employment by  
economic sector in  
1986

primary.....14%

secondary....18%

tertiary.....68%(2)

Average annual  
income of the popu-  
lation age 15 and  
over with income in  
1986

.....13 825 \$ (2)

### source:

(1) Bureau de la statistique  
du Québec,  
*Le Québec chiffres en  
mains, 1990.*

(2) Office de planification et  
de développement du  
Québec,  
*Les MRC en 1986, quel-  
ques indicateurs.*

## Geography

- Bounded by the St Lawrence River, Baie des Chaleurs, New Brunswick and the State of Maine, Eastern Québec comprises the Magdalen Islands and the peninsula formed by the Lower St Lawrence and Gaspé. Distributed among 204 picturesque towns and villages, the population stands at 323,100.
- Stretching majestically over 42,800 square kilometres and served by a transportation network of interconnected land, water and air links, Eastern Québec is a region whose most prominent features are imposing scenery, an ever-present coastline and rich natural resources.

## Industrial profile

- The forest industry is a major economic sector in this region, in which 85% of the total surface area is forested. The region ranks third in Québec in terms of cut volume.
- With its extensive network of commercial fisheries and processing facilities, Eastern Québec is the major fishing region in Québec. Indeed, this region alone accounts for 78% of landed catches and 80% of shipments in Québec. Groundfish, shellfish and pelagic fish from Eastern Québec are consumed around the world.
- Manufacturing is concentrated mainly in the primary processing of natural resources. Pulp and paper, lumber and wood by-products, dairy and grain production and fish processing provide 75% of industrial jobs. Most of the goods are manufactured by small and medium-sized businesses and are exported.
- In the past ten years the industrial base of Eastern Québec has diversified to some extent. Plants have been established to produce metals, electronics, glass, furniture panels, powdered milk and peat-based products.

## Tourist attractions

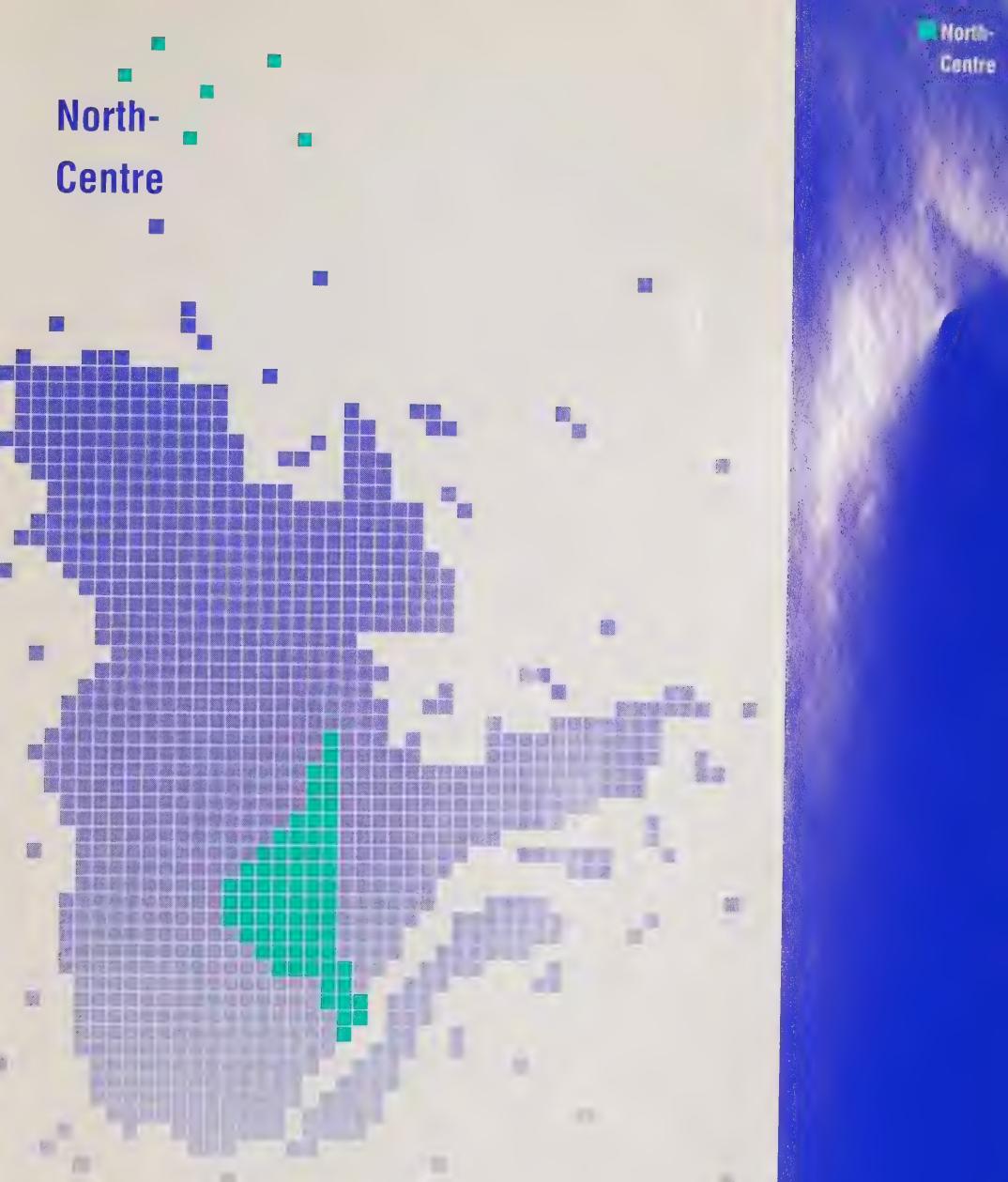
- Tourism, which is becoming less and less seasonal, is a vital part of the economy, generating close to \$200 million in annual revenue for the region. Majestic bodies of water, stunning scenery and picturesque villages make this the foremost natural tourist region in Québec.
- The large parks of Gaspé, Bic and Forillon, Percé, Carleton and mount St-Pierre, to name only a few major tourist sites, attract thousands of Canadian and foreign visitors to the region each year.

## Development prospects

Despite progress achieved in recent years, the economy of Eastern Québec remains fragile. The need to accelerate long-term growth in the region is therefore a fundamental objective that must be based on the following priorities:

- Promoting and developing small business and entrepreneurship.
- Creating an environment favouring the development of human resources, particularly with regard to young people.
- Continuing to modernize and diversify traditional sectors such as fishing and forestry.
- Speeding up the development of new resources such as minerals.
- Encouraging development of the region's aquaculture potential.
- Consolidating and developing the region's strengths in the agri-food sector.
- Stepping up the development of services, activities and infrastructures to support the primary and secondary sectors.
- Pursuing current efforts with regard to tourism in order to promote the development of quality products and bring the regional supply more closely into line with increasingly exacting demand.

## North- Centre



### Alma:

170, Saint-Joseph South Street  
Suite 203, Alma (Québec) G8B 3E8  
(418) 668-3084 1-800-463-9808

## A few figures

Labour force in  
1988

.....152 585 (1)

Unemployment rate  
in 1986

.....14%(1)

Employment by  
economic sector in  
1986

primary.....7%

secondary....22%

tertiary.....71%(1)

Average annual  
income of the popu-  
lation age 15 and  
over with income in  
1986

.....16 379 \$ (1)

### source:

(1) Office de planification et  
de développement du  
Québec,  
*Les MRC en 1986, quel-  
ques indicateurs.*

## Geography

- Situated in the heart of Québec, the North-Centre comprises the Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean region and, in the southwest, the Charlevoix and Charlevoix East regional county municipalities, both formerly included in the Québec City region. The North-Centre is the most urbanized resource region, with 70% of its over 330,000 inhabitants concentrated in the agglomerations of Chicoutimi, Jonquière, la Baie and Alma, and, in the case of Charlevoix, the municipalities of La Malbaie and Baie-Saint-Paul.
- Its magnificent waterways are one of the principal features of the region. The Saguenay is at once a river, estuary and the only navigable fjord in North America. Lake Saint-Jean is a veritable inland sea with a span of forty kilometres.

## Industrial profile

- The North-Centre is the most industrialized resource region, accounting for 18% of manufacturing employment. It owes its industrialization to the vast network of waterways that crisscrosses the region; this network, first used to float logs and later to generate electricity, also attracted large pulp and paper and aluminum companies.
- Although its economy is no longer based solely on agriculture and forestry, the region's resources continue to play a key role in economic development. Agriculture concentrates on dairy, pasture and beef production and is distinguished by the fact that close to 90% of the 3,000 tonnes of blueberries picked each year are exported to the United States.
- In the mining sector, the region has one of the world's few niobium mines and quarries a wide variety of granite which it exports to Europe and Asia.
- A feature of the manufacturing sector is the large size of its companies. Alcan is the biggest employer in the region, with 8,000 workers.

Tourist attractions

## Development prospects

- Tourism brings over 400,000 visitors to the region each year. Prime hunting and fishing area, the region boasts major tourist attractions such as the Saint-Félicien Zoo and the Historical Village of Val-Jalbert. Festivals are another characteristic feature, among them the "Carnaval-Souvenir de Chicoutimi" and the "Festival Jonquière en fête"; the latter won a major tourism award in 1985.
- Among the most popular sites are lake Saint-Jean, famous for its size and its "traversée internationale" (an annual cross-lake swimming competition), and mount Valin, which attracts skiers, campers, hikers, climbers and canoeists. And how about the stunning beauty of the Saguenay fjord.
- As for the Charlevoix region, its reputation extends far beyond the country's borders. Over the years the region has developed a network of quality inns where warm service and fine dining are a staple. The region also enjoys a very active cultural life, with its museums, art galleries and events such as the "Symposium de la peinture". These attractions, in an enchanting maritime setting, have helped to make Charlevoix a popular tourist destination.

Economic development in the North-Centre region is necessarily tied to the diversification of its manufacturing companies. These are well-equipped and able to meet the demands of expansion faced by multinationals, particularly in the aluminum, hydro-electric and forest sectors. Once current projects are completed, the companies must take advantage of their know-how either by exporting their expertise or by developing new manufactured products.

As for primary processing firms, they must add higher value to their products, whether those are blueberries, potatoes, granite or wood. And the answer to that challenge will be found through research and development (R&D).

Tourism development, neglected until recently, at least in the Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean region, is the subject of regional consensus. More effort will be needed, mainly to develop accommodation, recreation and cultural infrastructures.

# Western Québec



**Val-d'Or:** Place du Québec  
888, 3<sup>rd</sup> avenue, suite 302  
Val-d'Or (Québec) J9P 5E6  
(819) 825-5260 1-800-567-6451



## A few figures

Labour force in  
1988

.....104 575 (1)

Unemployment rate  
in 1986

.....14%(1)

Employment by  
economic sector in  
1986

primary.....19%

secondary...15%

tertiary.....66%(1)

Average annual  
income of the popu-  
lation age 15 and  
over with income in  
1986

.....15 120 \$ (1)

### source:

(1) Office de planification et  
de développement du  
Québec,  
*Les MRC en 1986, quel-  
ques indicateurs.*

## Geography

- Western Québec, as defined in the Canada-Québec Subsidiary Agreement on the Economic Development of the Regions of Québec, covers over 100,000 square kilometres and comprises several administrative regions. They include Abitibi, Temiscamingue and the RCMs of Pontiac, La Vallée-de-la-Gatineau and Antioche-Labellé.
- The region has close to 235,000 inhabitants, including 3,500 natives, representing almost 3.5% of the Québec population, clustered mainly in the urban centres of Amos, La Sarre, Maniwaki, Mont-Laurier, Rouyn-Noranda, Senneterre, Témiscaming, Val-d'Or and Ville-Marie.
- While they are distinguished by many features, the areas of this region have in common an economy based on the development and export of natural resources.

## Industrial profile

- Logging and the processing of wood into pulp, paper, lumber and wood by-products are the leading economic activities.
- After the expansion of the forest industry in the late 1970s and early 1980s, the increasing remoteness and depletion of forest resources has since caused production to slow down. This shortage has forced wood producers to merge with paper companies, assuring the latter of a stable and long-term supply.
- Rationalization in the use of forest resources and the installation of more efficient processing facilities have become necessary in the face of increasingly complex economic and environmental factors.
- Mining is the second pillar of the economy. The Abitibi is the prime region for ore deposits in Québec and remains an active centre of exploration and mining, especially for gold and copper. The Outaouais, Upper Laurentians and Témiscamingue hold significant deposits of industrial minerals such as graphite, lime, silica and granite.
- Various service and manufacturing companies have developed around the mining and forest industries and have taken full advantage of those market niches, in which they have acquired enviable expertise.

## Tourist attractions

- Nature in all its vastness, beauty and wilderness makes this huge region ideal for many outdoor and recreational activities.
- With more than 200 outfitters, the region attracts many hunters, fishermen and adventure tourists.
- From the Ottawa River, close to the Ontario market, to the gateway to James Bay and its huge hydro-electric projects, Western Québec is likely to become a travel destination of international calibre. It offers many different attractions resulting, among other things, from the presence of several urban centres and the particular nature of the region's economic activities.

## Development prospects

Without a doubt, the forest industry will undergo major rationalization and silviculture will intensify. Valuable species will be logged with greater care, deciduous species will be used increasingly for pulp and the industry trend should be toward a longer processing chain and higher value added.

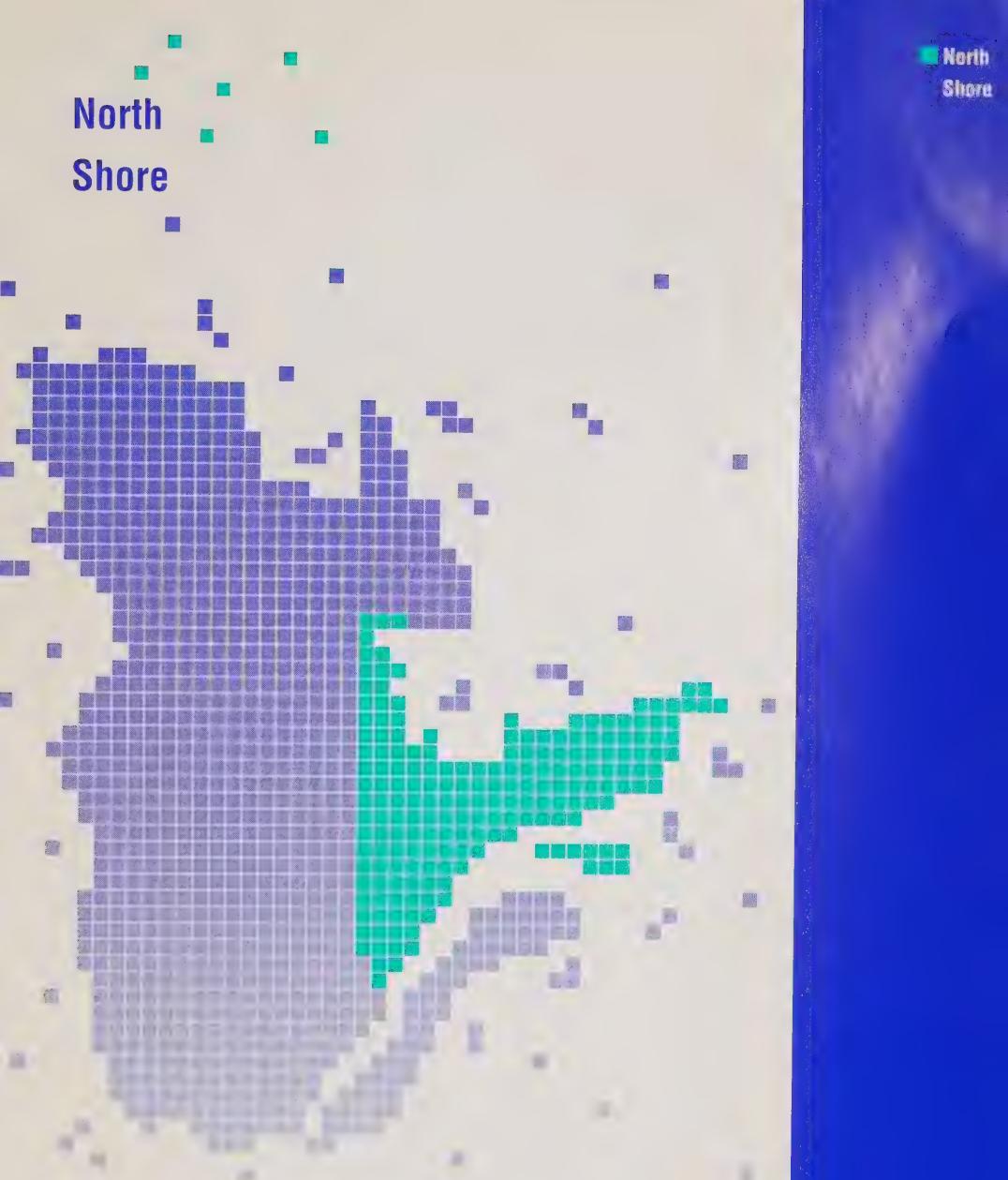
Research and technological development should lead to the manufacturing of new products and substantial efforts will need to be devoted to the search for new markets.

Continued exploration and further development of mineral extraction and environmental protection technology should enable the mining industry to remain competitive internationally.

As for tourism, its future is tied to the development of circuits, themes, attractions and activities specific to the region. Major improvements in accommodation capacity and quality are also planned.

North  
Shore

North  
Shore



**Sept-Îles:** 701, Laure Blvd., P.O. Box. 698  
Sept-Îles (Québec) G4R 4K9  
(418) 968-3426 1-800-463-1707

## A few figures\*

Labour force in  
1988

..... 53 000 (1)

Unemployment rate  
in 1986..... 14% (2)  
in 1988..... 12% (1)

Employment by  
economic sector in  
1986

primary..... 17%  
secondary.... 14%  
tertiary..... 69% (2)

Average annual  
income of the popu-  
lation age 15 and  
over with income in  
1986 (North Shore)

..... 17 426 \$ (2)

\* Figures apply to both  
the North Shore and  
Northern Québec re-  
gions (except for an-  
nual income) because,  
for statistical purpo-  
ses, the two regions  
are combined.

### SOURCE:

- (1) Bureau de la statistique  
du Québec,  
*Le Québec chiffres en  
mains, 1990*,
- (2) Office de planification et  
de développement du  
Québec,  
*Les MRC en 1986, quel-  
ques indicateurs*.

## Geography

- Situated some 900 kilometres northeast of Montréal, the North Shore stretches over 299,315 square kilometres, from the mouth of the Saguenay to beyond the gulf as far as the edge of the strait of Belle Isle, on the north shore of the St Lawrence River. It is bounded on the north and east by Northern Québec and Labrador, and takes in Anticosti Island.
- The region's population, which stands at around 103,500, is concentrated mainly along the coast of the Upper North Shore, in Baie-Comeau, Sept-Îles and Port-Cartier. The Middle and Lower North Shore are particularly remote and isolated maritime sub-regions.
- The hinterland is vast and covered by coniferous forest. An extensive network of rivers has traditionally served as an inland transportation system, while reservoirs now feed giant hydro-electric complexes.

## Industrial profile

- Based on the development of marine, forest, mineral and hydro-electric resources, the economy of the North Shore has changed profoundly since 1980, owing to the sharp decline of the iron ore industry. Mining and forestry continue all the same to share close to 70% of employment in the primary and manufacturing sectors, and support other major activities such as rail and marine transportation.
- Aluminum and newsprint plants at Baie-Comeau have remained the pillars of the North Shore economy, while the pursuit of activities in the pulp, wood and fishing industries gives hope to other towns and municipalities along the coast.
- In addition, the establishment of the Alouette aluminum plant at Sept-Îles should do much to revitalize the economy of that city and of the region as a whole.
- The North Shore is also a region where hydro-electric power is generated and transmitted: 11 power stations, including Manic 5, are in operation, and close to half of Québec's hydro-electric energy flows through the region. Hydro-Québec employs close to a thousand people and generates significant benefits through its local purchasing of goods and services.

## Tourist attractions

- The new tourist image of the North Shore emphasizes the attraction of the maritime coast, its ports, its fishing hamlets, its picturesque landscape, excursions on the river and to the islands and the call of the wild back country, with its giant hydro-electric facilities.
- Three major attractions have acquired an international reputation: the Manic 5 dam, the marine park at Tadoussac and the Mingan Islands National Park, a natural paradise with spectacular scenery, which has seen the number of visitors more than double since 1984.
- Whale watching has recently become extremely popular, especially at Tadoussac, already an established holiday resort, but also at Les Escoumins and Havre-Saint-Pierre. Anticosti Island, because to its deer and salmon, is also a well-known site.

## Development prospects

Development prospects on the North Shore depend largely on the economic stability of the region, the potential for big business development and major hydro-electric projects such as the one planned for the Sainte-Marguerite River and the harnessing of certain rivers on the Lower North Shore.

The emergence of a dynamic small business sector is also promising in terms of market expansion, given the opportunities for sub-contracting from large businesses.

Tourism development, for its part, depends on the consolidation and development of major attractions such the Tadoussac marine park and the Mingan Islands park. More should be done to develop adventure tourism, a growing trend on which the Lower North Shore intends to capitalize thanks to its splendid scenery and particular flora and fauna, which make it a unique tourist destination.

# Northern Québec

**Montréal:** Business Service Centre  
800, Victoria Square, suite 3800  
P.O. Box 247, Montreal (Québec) H4Z 1E8  
(418) 283-8185 1-800-361-5367

## A few figures\*

Labour force in  
1988

.....53 000 (1)

Unemployment rate

in 1986.....14%(2)

in 1988.....12%(1)

Employment by  
economic sector in  
1986

primary.....17%

secondary....14%

tertiary.....69%(2)

Average annual  
income of the popu-  
lation age 15 and  
over with income in  
1986 (Northern  
Québec)

.....18 073 \$ (2)

\* Figures apply to both  
the North Shore and  
Northern Québec re-  
gions (except for annu-  
al income) because, for  
statistical purposes,  
the two regions are  
combined.

### SOURCE:

(1) Bureau de la statistique  
du Québec,  
*Le Québec chiffres en  
mains, 1990.*

(2) Office de planification et  
de développement du  
Québec,  
*Les MRC en 1986, quel-  
ques indicateurs.*

## Geography

- This region has a population of approximately 36,000, distributed among 38 municipalities and localities, including four towns, nine Indian reserves, twelve northern village municipalities, seven localities and five unorganized territories.
- Bounded on the south by the 49th parallel and encompassing the entire James Bay territory as well as the Kativik territory north of the 58th parallel, Northern Québec is the largest region in Québec, covering over half the surface area of the province.
- Many of Québec's native communities are in Northern Québec, where three population groups can be distinguished, each relatively isolated from the others:
  - the Cree, Naskapi and Algonquin Indians (25% of the population)
  - the Inuit (15% of the population)
  - non-natives (60% of the population)

## Industrial profile

- Northern Québec is an immense resource region engaged in the development of its many potential assets. The construction of the hydro-electric complex at La Grande has given a boost to development initiatives that were previously limited to traditional hunting and fishing activities along with mining and logging operations located mainly on the northern fringe of the North-Centre and Western Québec regions.
- While primary activity (forestry, mining, hydro-electricity, hunting and fishing) are relatively developed, the secondary sector is largely confined to sawmills and one pulp and paper company.
- Tertiary activity is poorly distributed. There is a lack of administrative services, particularly banking and finance, as well as social and recreational, health care and other professional services.

## Tourist attractions

- This great northern land has inherent potential in the form of natural tourist attractions; but there are few infrastructures to receive visitors.
- Sectors to be developed include hunting and fishing, excursions and adventure tourism.

## Development prospects

The resources of Northern Québec cannot be developed using strictly a sectoral approach. Only an integrated approach to development will make it possible for native and non-native communities to use the means available to them to effect major changes and meet the challenge of development.

Thus, while the development of activities related to natural resources clearly requires the establishment of infrastructures and the fostering of entrepreneurship, a necessary first step is to give consideration to human resources and recognize that technological progress is a major pre-condition of development in the region.

In this context, three major development axes can be defined for Northern Québec:

- To create a climate favourable to the affirmation of northern communities by involving them in a planned and concerted development process.
- To promote the development of natural resources while taking into account the fragility of northern ecosystems.
- To provide native and non-native people with the financial and technical support needed to foster entrepreneurship and enable the region to catch up in several economic sectors.

# Regional Offices

Regional Development (Québec) has offices in each administrative region of the province.

For information on its programs and services or those administered by Industry, Science and Technology Canada, contact the nearest regional office.

- Alma: 170 St-Joseph South St.  
Suite 203, Alma  
(Québec) G8B 3E8  
(418) 668-3084  
1-800-463-9808
- Drummondville: Place du Centre  
150 Marchand St.  
Suite 502,  
Drummondville (Québec)  
J2C 4N1  
(819) 478-4664  
1-800-567-1418
- Montréal: Business Service Centre  
800 Victoria Square  
Suite 3800, P.O. Box 247,  
Montréal (Québec)  
H4Z 1E8  
(514) 283-8185  
1-800-361-5367
- Québec: John Munn Building  
112 Dalhousie St.  
Suite 001, Québec City  
(Québec) G1K 4C1  
(418) 648-4826  
1-800-463-5204
- Rimouski: 212, Belzile St  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Rimouski  
(Québec) G5L 3C3  
(418) 722-3282  
1-800-463-9073
- Sept-Îles: 701 Laure Blvd, P.O. 698  
Sept-Îles (Québec)  
G4R 4K9  
(418) 968-3426  
1-800-463-1707
- Sherbrooke: 1335 King St. West  
Suite 303, Sherbrooke  
(Québec) J1J 2B8  
(819) 564-5904  
1-800-567-6084
- Trois-Rivières: Bourg du Fleuve  
Building, 25 Des Forges  
4<sup>th</sup> floor, room 413  
Trois-Rivières (Québec)  
G9A 2G4  
(819) 374-5544  
1-800-567-8637
- Val-d'Or: Place du Québec  
888, 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue, suite 302  
Val-d'Or (Québec) J9P 5E6  
(819) 825-5260  
1-800-567-6451

